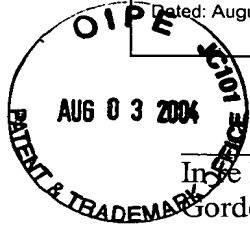


I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as Express Mail, Airbill No. ER509329804US, in an envelope addressed to: MS AF, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date shown below.

Dated: August 2, 2004

Signature: Elena Magliotto
(Elena M. Magliotto)

Docket No.: HO-P02540US1
(PATENT)



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:
Gordon S. Scholler

Application No.: 09/896,429

Art Unit: 3739

Filed: June 29, 2001

Examiner: A. Farah

For: **IMPROVED APPLANATION LENS AND
METHOD FOR OPHTHALMIC SURGICAL
APPLICATIONS**

RESPONSE TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION DATED 3-29-2004

MS AF
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

In response to the Office Action mailed March 29, 2004 (Paper No. 16), in which claims 1-12 were rejected and claims 13-18 were allowed, please amend the above-identified U.S. patent application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 5 of this paper.

TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

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